

What is claimed is:

1 1. A composition for alleviating acne scarring, comprising a compatible
2 combination of: a non-retinoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix-degrading enzyme; and
3 an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of comedolytics,
4 antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, and compatible
5 mixtures thereof.

1 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor is
2 selected from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase
3 inhibitors, adhesion antagonists, and mixtures thereof.

1 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied topically
2 and is provided in combination with a dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1 4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered
2 systemically.

1 5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid.

1 6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is an
2 antibacterial.

1 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the active ingredient is benzoyl
2 peroxide.

1 8. The composition of claim 1, comprising a combination of an MMP
2 inhibitor and a neutrophil elastase inhibitor.

1 9. The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an antioxidant.

1 10. A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of: orally
2 administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and topically
3 administering a non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix
4 degrading enzyme to acne-affected skin.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid or a
2 tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is selected from the
2 group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase inhibitors, selectin
3 inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibitor of a dermal matrix
2 degrading enzyme is an MMP inhibitor.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor an antioxidant.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is applied regularly from
2 once every two days to twice daily.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the inhibitor is applied daily.

1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor comprises a combination
2 of an MMP inhibitor and an elastase inhibitor.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a direct MMP inhibitor.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an indirect MMP
2 inhibitor.

1 20. A combined therapy for alleviating acne scarring, comprising a
2 compatible combination of: a non-retinoid inhibitor or antagonist of an receptor
3 sensitive to LPS-like material; and an active ingredient selected from the group
4 consisting of comedolytics, antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids,
5 glucocorticoids, non-retinoid MMP inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 21. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the composition is applied
2 topically and is provided in combination with a dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1 22. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one of the active
2 ingredient and the inhibitor is administered topically.

1 23. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one of the active
2 ingredient and the inhibitor is administered orally.

1 24. The combined therapy of claim 20, where the combination is provided
2 as a single, topically applied composition.

1 25. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist
2 inhibits or antagonizes a TLR.

1 26. A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of: administering an
2 active ingredient for the treatment of acne and administering a non-retinoid, non-
3 glucocorticoid inhibitor or antagonist of a receptor sensitive to LPS-like compounds
4 induced or produced by *P. acnes*.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid or a
2 tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist is
2 administered topically and applied regularly from once every two days to twice daily.

1 29. The method of claim 25, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist is
2 administered daily and the active ingredient is administered topically.

1 30. The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist reduces the
2 induction or production or signalling by NF- κ B.

1 31. A method for treating acne, comprising administering a non-retinoid
2 inhibitor of NF- κ B to a patient in need thereof.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the inhibitor affects the production of
2 NF- κ B from TLRs.

1 33. A method for treating acne, comprising administering an inhibitor that
2 prevents CD-14 from activating toll-like receptors.

1 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the CD-14 inhibitor is administered
2 topically.